

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-169. (Cancelled)

170. (Currently Amended) An endoscope assembly comprising:

~~an~~ a selectably tiltable endoscope head extending along a longitudinal axis and having a first plurality of selectably radially extendible elements associated therewith at at least one first axial location therealong and a second plurality of selectably radially extendible elements associated therewith at at least one second axial location therealong; and

an endoscope head controller being operative for controlling selectable extension of said first and second pluralities of selectably radially extendible elements for selectable positioning of said endoscope head and for selectable tilting of said endoscope head.

171. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 170 and wherein said endoscope head controller is operative for controlling selectable extension of said first and second pluralities of selectably radially extendible elements for selectable parallel off-center orientation of said endoscope head.

172-173. (Cancelled)

174. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 170 and wherein at least one of said first and second pluralities of selectably radially extendible elements comprises a plurality of radially extendible elements distributed generally azimuthally about said endoscope head.

175. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 170 and wherein said endoscope head comprises a locomotive endoscope head.

176. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 175 and wherein said locomotive endoscope head comprises a main portion extending along a longitudinal axis and associated with said first plurality of selectably radially extendible elements, and a selectably positionable portion, selectably axially positionable along said main portion and associated with said second plurality of selectably radially extendible elements

177. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 170 and wherein at least one of said first and second pluralities of selectably radially extendible elements comprises a plurality of selectably inflatable balloons.

178. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 170 and also comprising an endoscope body associated with said endoscope head and an instrument channel at least partially extending through said endoscope head and said endoscope body.

179. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 170 and wherein said endoscope head has a fixed length.

180. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 178, and wherein said endoscope body interfaces with said endoscope head controller and also comprising an endoscopy system to which said endoscope head controller is connectable.

181. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 178 and wherein said endoscope body includes at least one lumen operative for at least one of:

extension of said radially extendible elements;

positioning of said selectably positionable portion of said endoscope head;

passage therethrough of at least one of an optical fiber and an electrical conductor bundle; and

fluid communication.

182. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 170 and wherein said first plurality of selectably radially extendible elements comprises at least two independently selectably radially extendible elements.

183. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 170 and wherein said second plurality of selectably radially extendible elements comprises at least two independently selectably radially extendible elements.

184. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 182 and wherein said second plurality of selectably radially extendible elements comprises at least two independently selectably radially extendible elements.

185. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 184 and wherein said at least two independently selectably radially extendible elements of said second plurality of selectably radially extendible elements are azimuthally offset with respect to said at least two independently selectably radially extendible elements of said first plurality of selectably radially extendible elements.

186. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 175 and wherein said endoscope head controller provides locomotive functionality adapted to sequentially displace said endoscope head through a generally tubular body portion.

187. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 170 and wherein at least one of said first and second pluralities of selectably radially extendible elements is axially displaceable with respect to the other.

188. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 171 and wherein at least one of said first and second pluralities of selectably radially extendible elements comprises a plurality of selectably inflatable balloons.

189. (Currently Amended) An endoscope assembly according to claim 170 ~~claim 172~~ and wherein at least one of said first and second pluralities of selectably radially extendible elements comprises a plurality of selectably inflatable balloons.

190. (Cancelled)

191. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 182 and wherein said at least two independently selectably radially extendible elements comprise at least two independently selectably inflatable balloons.

192. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 183 and wherein said at least two independently selectably radially extendible elements comprise at least two independently selectably inflatable balloons.

193. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 184 and wherein said at least two independently selectably radially extendible elements comprise at least two independently selectably inflatable balloons.

194. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 185 and wherein at least one of said at least two independently selectably radially extendible elements comprises at least two independently selectably inflatable balloons.

195. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 178 and also comprising an endoscope tool arranged to travel along said instrument channel to a utilization location forward of said endoscope head, said endoscope tool being slidably and sealingly located within said instrument channel; and

a fluid endoscope tool positioner for selectably pressurizing said instrument channel for providing fluid driven desired positioning of said endoscope tool along said instrument channel.

196. (Previously Presented) An endoscope assembly according to claim 195 and wherein said endoscope tool includes a piston-defining portion sealingly and slidably engaging said instrument channel.

197. (Currently Amended) An endoscope positioning method comprising:

providing ~~an~~ a selectably tiltable endoscope head extending along a longitudinal axis and having a first plurality of selectably radially extendible elements associated therewith at at least a first axial location therealong and a second plurality of selectably radially extendible elements associated therewith at at least a second axial location therealong; and

selectably positioning said endoscope head by selectable extension of said first and second pluralities of selectably radially extendible elements; and

selectably tilting said endoscope head by selectable extension of said first and second pluralities of selectably radially extendible elements.

198. (Previously Presented) An endoscope positioning method according to claim 197 and wherein at least one of said first and second pluralities of selectably radially extendible elements comprises a plurality of radially extendible elements distributed azimuthally about said endoscope head and said positioning said endoscope head includes selectable extension of individual ones of said plurality of radially extendible elements.